

ROYSTON AND DISTRICT COMMITTEE
(Royston and Ermine Ward – Parishes of Barkway, Barley, Kelshall, Nuthampstead,
Reed and Therfield)

**Meeting held at Royston Town Hall, Melbourn Street, Royston
on 21 January 2009 at 7.30p.m.**

MINUTES

PRESENT: Councillors: Mrs F.R. Hill (Chairman), Mrs Liz Beardwell,
P.C.W. Burt, A.F. Hunter, R.E. Inwood and F.J. Smith.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ashley Hawkins – NHDC Consultation Officer
Roger Harrison – Public Relations Manager
Alan Fleck - Community Development Officer
Susanne Gow – Committee and Member Services Officer

ALSO PRESENT: Inspector Jason Thorne – Hertfordshire Constabulary
Sgt Richard Jones – Hertfordshire Constabulary
PCSO Penny Tomsett – Hertfordshire Constabulary
Geraint Burnell – Royston Town Centre Manager
Hertfordshire County Cllr Doug Drake
Royston Town Councillor Bob Smith

5 members of the public.

67. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Howard Marshall.

68. MINUTES – 26 NOVEMBER 2008

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Royston and District Committee Meeting held on 26 November 2008 be approved as a true record of the proceedings, and be signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising were:

- Successful Christmas car parking – there had been no feedback on the free parking after 4pm provided in Royston car parks from 18-24 December 2008. The Community Development Officer was asked to obtain this feedback. **Action AF;**
- The Community Development Officer was asked to obtain costings for free car parking on a Saturday near Christmas and feed these back to the next Royston and District Committee Meeting on 18 March 2009. **Action: AF**

79. NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman announced that two additional items would be discussed by the Royston and District Committee after the remaining business on the Agenda, as additional items. These would be:

- Salt bins on the Twigdens Estate;
- General salting of roads and pavements in Royston.

80. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed her best wishes for a Happy New Year. She thanked Inspector Jason Thorne from the Hertfordshire Constabulary and Mr Geraint Burnell, the Royston Town Centre Manager, for attending the Royston and District Committee Meeting, together with Mr Ashley Hawkins, NHDC Consultation Officer, and Roger Harrison, NHDC Public Relations Manager.

She stated that there was a correction to the time and place of the next two Royston Community Surgeries given in the published Agenda for this Committee Meeting. They would take place at Angel Pavement from 10-11.30am on 7 February and 4 April 2009, and not as given in the Agenda.

The Chairman went on to remind Members of the Royston and District Committee that any declarations of interest in respect of business set out in the agenda, should be declared as either a prejudicial or personal interest, and they were required to notify

the Chairman of the nature of any interest declared at the commencement of the relevant item on the agenda. Members declaring a prejudicial interest were to leave the room and not seek to influence the decision during that particular item.

81. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

This covered presentations from Hertfordshire Constabulary giving an annual update on their activities in Royston and District, and an update on the Royston Bid by the Royston Town Centre Manager, which would be taken at Items 7 and 8 respectively on the Agenda.

82. KEY FINDINGS FROM THE NHDC 2008 DISTRICT-WIDE SURVEY, WITH PARTICULAR FOCUS ON RESPONSES FROM ROYSTON RESIDENTS

The NHDC Consultation Officer (CO) took the Committee through the report and its Appendix, after giving the background to the survey and pointing out that this exercise to assess the attitudes of residents towards North Herts District Council (NHDC) and the services it provided, was carried out in North Hertfordshire every two years – the last one had been in 2006.

The CO assured the Committee that the results from Royston residents mirrored the general figures from the whole of North Herts, with increasing/improving facilities for teenagers being of highest importance to residents both in Royston and across North Herts, along with improvements to shopping facilities, more road/footpath repairs and improvements to refuse collection being vital to those living in Royston. The number of Royston residents canvassed had been 116 out of the total of 1012 residents referred to across the North Herts District.

It was revealed that 92% of Royston respondents were satisfied with Royston as a place to live, and 71% were happy with the way that NHDC administered Royston and the surrounding district. However, Royston gave five areas a lower than average satisfaction rating. These were: public halls; markets (which were in a state of flux at the time of the survey and would have an effect on the responses); car parking (also in a state of flux); on-street car parking; and outdoor pools (although Royston does not have one).

The Royston and District Committee discussed and commented on the report, and asked questions of the Consultation Officer. Occasionally the Public Relations Manager clarified points when deemed necessary.

The Chairman declared that some positive findings had come out of the survey, and also revealed that a major supermarket chain was to move to Royston, which would bring more shoppers into the Town. On questioning the CO, it was revealed that the opinion that the need for improvement in facilities for teenagers/young people in Royston was an adult perception, as very few teenagers had been consulted. One Member commented that this survey, as in many other cases, confirmed what the Royston and District Committee already knew, and questioned the CO as to whether any larger surveys had been carried out in the area. On being told that the Citizens' Panel survey was larger, the Member proposed that there should be a breakdown of the District-Wide Survey (DWS) by Ward area, which would show the precise improvements which were required in each Ward. The Committee was assured that a sample of respondents numbering around 100 would provide as accurate a picture of the District as if 1,000 residents of Royston had been surveyed. They were informed that whilst the DWS is not a Government requirement, it is best practice that councils regularly consult with residents to ascertain their views and expectations of the Council and the services it provides. It also provides details on residents' perception, which is one of the key components, along with cost and performance in delivering value for money, and has to be paid for. The cost for this DWS was approximately £26,000.

The Chairman thanked the Consultation Officer and the Public Relations Manager for their hard work and for the comprehensive answers given to the Royston and District Committee's questions.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the Chairman of the Royston and District Committee thanked the North Herts District Council (NHDC) officers for their hard work;
- 2) That the Royston and District Committee note the key findings from the 2008 NHDC District-Wide Survey, and identify the areas for action or investigation

by NHDC officers developing the proposed action plan arising from the District-Wide Survey, to be considered at the next PARC Meeting on 29 January 2009;

- 3) That the Consultation Officer bring to the Royston and District Committee a breakdown of the District-Wide Survey (DWS) by Ward area, which would show the precise improvements which were required in each Ward.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS:

- 1) To demonstrate the willingness of the North Herts District Council to act to address any concerns highlighted by its residents, in order to maintain future resident involvement in the consultation process;
- 2) To avoid public scepticism and disengagement;
- 3) To actively respond to the "Satisfied Communities" Strategic Objective by producing relevant actions.

83. POLICE – ANNUAL UPDATE

Inspector Jason Thorne of Hertfordshire Constabulary addressed the Royston and District Committee, giving them an update on the crime statistics over the period from 1 April 2008 to the 19 January 2009, together with a summary of the Community Team Initiatives.

The crime statistics he gave were as follows:

- All crime had reduced from 913 to 834 (79 crimes of all types less), giving a result of -8.7%
- Dwelling burglary was up from 37 to 53 (an additional 16 crimes), giving a result of +43.2%
- Motor vehicle crime was down from 162 to 140 (22 crimes less), giving a result of -13.6%
- Criminal damage was down from 298 to 204 (94 crimes less), giving a result of -31.5%
- Theft from person was down from 16 to 12 (4 crimes less), a result of -25%
- Theft from shops was down from 26 to 24 (2 crimes less), a result of -7.7%.

Inspector Thorne explained that there had been an increase in dwelling burglaries over the summer months, but a prolific offender had been arrested, and the number of these crimes had since decreased noticeably. An extensive and large scale crime reduction initiative, Operation Saturnalia, had been launched in September 2008 by the Safer Neighbourhood Team, and was expected to lead to a long-term reduction in this crime. There had been six distraction burglaries since 1 April 2008, three of which were in Clark Road, two even being on the same day. It was recognised that the general public need to be re-educated with regard to taking more care with the security of their dwellings, and a County-wide Burglary Action Plan was available, containing initiatives such as Prevention, Intelligence, Enforcement and Reassurance.

Vehicle crime had been reduced by 14.9% across North Hertfordshire, and Operation Tarantula, which was currently running, was involved with prevention and intelligence gathering. To date, car owners had been provided with basic crime reduction advice, but fuel theft was on the increase, linked to rising fuel prices.

One of the hotspots for antisocial behaviour had turned out to be Priory Memorial Gardens, although this had been reduced by the introduction of CCTV cameras, physical improvements to the park, visible Police patrols and enforcement, codenamed Operation Serang. These measures had also reduced the incidences of antisocial behaviour in the Burns Road and Mill Road areas, and other locations identified, such as Garden Walk and the Heath have come to the attention of the Police, the schools and the Youth Service, who are working in partnership to reduce these occurrences. Criminal damage had been reduced by almost a third in Royston compared with the previous year.

Inspector Thorne informed the Royston and District Committee that during the previous summer, some key events had helped to reduce youth-related crime and disorder, and these were:

- Event Horizon – a music event for youth on Therfield Heath
- Parks project – Child UK and the Police provided diversionary activities in the Priory Memorial Gardens

He stated that the Police were working with youth workers and North Herts Homes to visit hotspot antisocial behaviour locations to provide diversionary activities.

Inspector Thorne declared that in Royston Town Centre there had been improvements in crime and disorder over the past year, with fewer incidents linked to public houses. There is a designated licensing officer, Police Sergeant Clive Reader, who keeps an eye on licensed premises and communicates with the licensees.

Royston had also seen a marked decrease in shoplifting, and Operation Gucci has been running in Royston Town Centre to provide visible policing, leading to the Crime Prevention Panel being able to provide wider crime reduction advice to passing members of the public.

However, there had been a number of incidents of obscene graffiti in and around the Town Centre toilets, and an offender had been arrested and charged with several acts of criminal damage.

Inspector Thorne stated that enviro-crime and fire safety had also been covered, and most categories of crime are showing a reduction, while remaining challenges for the forthcoming year.

It was reported that new opening hours had been introduced at Royston Police Station, which was open most days of the week compared to other Stations in North Hertfordshire. The Police Station is definitely not closing, and Inspector Thorne detailed the number of staff there – nine members of the Safer Neighbourhood team (1 sergeant and eight PC and PCSOs), 10 intervention PCs and two dog handlers.

Monthly Police surgeries have started, initially at Tesco and then will be set up at other locations such as Queens Road and Burns Road, providing maximum access to passing members of the community, in line with the Policing Pledge. Residents who made enquiries would be given the direct telephone number for a Police officer (**01707 354192**), and there would be a visible Police presence to show the community that there was somebody that they could speak to on a particular day and time. This should reassure residents that policing in Royston was being enhanced, and the process would be subject to review.

Lastly, Inspector Thorne outlined what the Hertfordshire Constabulary saw as the challenges for the future. These mainly consisted of categories of crime that were currently showing a reduction, but which were at risk of increasing. These were:

- Shoplifting
- Vehicle crime
- Theft from person
- Burglary
- Making off without payment (this depended on oil prices as well as the economic climate), and was being countered by visible Police presences at petrol stations, use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition and “Wanted” posters for this crime, displayed at petrol stations.

A Royston Environmental Action Day was to be held on 16 July 2009, and two local meetings were to be held as follows:

- A Panel Meeting for Royston Town on 10 February 2009 to cover antisocial behaviour and youth nuisance in Royston Town Centre, Priory Memorial Gardens and the surrounding area, together with theft from and criminal damage to motor vehicles;
- A Panel Meeting for Royston and Baldock Rural on 10 March 2009 to cover:
 - high visibility patrols in daylight hours to reduce incidents of hare coursing, nuisance motor cycling and nuisance 4 x 4 use;
 - crime prevention and evidence gathering in relation to suspicious

vehicles;

- speed checks by PCSOs to monitor vehicle speeds. Locations to be taken from Parish Councils and details published each month, Enforcement was not considered a good use of resources.

The Chairman thanked Inspector Thorne for his comprehensive report, and the Royston and District Committee Members asked him several questions, including:

- whether there were any points with which the Committee could help the Police;
- would there be any more Environmental Days in Royston (16 July 2009);
- had there been any further distraction burglaries and problems with the security of elderly residents (there had been six distraction burglaries, three on the same day. No Cold Calling in Royston was acting as a prevention, but due to the economic downturn, acquisitive crime on vulnerable people was becoming more common throughout the whole country).
- how does CCTV benefit Royston by helping the Police, and was there a need for more cameras (the cameras help the Police by their presence, and act as a deterrent);
- were there spots in Royston which would benefit from extra cameras – one Member suggested a permanent system at the Coombes Centre (the Police would come back with a response to this question to the Committee Clerk).

This last point was earmarked for further discussion with the Police, and a suggestion was made that some Members of the Royston and District Committee accompany the Police round Royston at night, to see first hand the problems they face.

The Committee were informed that there would be another Police Activity Day in Royston after April 2009.

The Chairman thanked Inspector Jason Thorne and Sergeant Richard Jones for attending the Royston and District Committee and for the comprehensive report.

84. ROYSTON BID UPDATE

The Royston Town Centre Manager, Mr Geraint Burnell, updated the Royston and District Committee on the Royston Bid. He said that since the last meeting, when Mr John Gourd had presented the Royston Bid to the Committee, they had achieved a “Yes” vote, and he confirmed that a Business Improvement District was in the process of being set up for Royston. Those concerned were on target for getting the Royston First BID Company Limited up and running by April 2009. An agreement had been made with Royston Town Council for joint delivery of Town Centre management and BID operations, and the Royston Town Centre Forum had convened for the last time, voting unanimously to be succeeded by the Royston First BID Company Limited.

The Royston Town Centre Manager (RTCM) stated that detailed work was currently under way with North Herts District Council officers to generate the Operating Agreement required by statute, and that the subject of Corporate Governance was also being progressed in preparation for the inauguration of an expanded Steering Group (or Board) to direct Royston First through its first year.

He concluded his update by offering to attend Royston and District Committee Meetings and brief the Members whenever they wished.

The Chairman thanked the Royston Town Centre Manager (RTCM), and asked for details of the process currently in progress, and he explained that the 17-man Committee would be put together on a broad balance, as they had 16 projects to deliver in five years. He declared that Royston First was more specific to Royston Town Council, but also link in to Hertfordshire County Council.

Members asked if there were any specific ways in which the Royston and District Committee could help Royston First once it had been set up, and the RTCM replied that the NHDC officers had been extremely helpful, but that Royston First were very likely to come back to the Committee for assistance in the future. On being questioned, he explained that Royston First BID Co. Ltd is a standalone organisation which had joined UK Bids, an association which offered help to companies such as theirs. He also explained that at present their “not for profit” status is preferable to Charitable status, but that this could change.

The Chairman thanked the RTCM once more for attending the Committee Meeting to give his interesting update on the Royston Bid and stated that the Royston and District Committee offered very best wishes for every success.

85. FLOODING IN ROYSTON

The Community Development Officer (CDO) read out an update on the flooding situation in the Royston Leisure Centre Car Park, stating that officers from North Herts District Council (NHDC) had appointed consultants in October 2008 to investigate flooding in the area which had occurred since September 2005.

The consultants had undertaken a desktop exercise to investigate the two occasions on which there had been excessive rainfall, when water had flowed from the Leisure Centre car park onto the Twigdens Estate. The CDO stated that although the Twigdens Estate had been built to the appropriate building standards in 2004/2005 and these standards still apply, the Environmental Agency now recommended that new developments should have more drainage installed than currently approved by the actual building standards, and the consultants were investigating the best way to achieve these new guidelines. A number of further tasks, including a full site survey, were outstanding before a final report was produced by the consultants.

The CDO also stated that drainage generally appeared to be insufficient on the Twigdens Estate car park, although this conclusion had been arrived at by a visual inspection only. The consultants were aiming to complete their investigative work by mid-February, and NHDC officers would be in a position to present the findings to the Royston and District Committee at the meeting on 18 March 2009. It was likely that the consultants' findings would require a report to a NHDC Cabinet Meeting, so the report would be brought to the Royston and District Committee Meeting prior to the Cabinet Meeting for Members' comments. Herts Highways and that Anglian Water were to be requested to bring a report to the next meeting of the Royston and District Committee on 18 March 2009. **Action: SG – Anglian Water has agreed to bring a report and Herts Highways state that Steve Crowley will present their report.**

The Committee raised the following points in their discussion:

- The whole problem needed to be examined;
- A report on the drains on the Twigdens Estate was urgently required;
- Adoption of the roads on the Twigdens Estate was not yet completed by Herts Highways;
- There was to be a meeting attended by Anglian Water and Herts Highways at the Coombes Community Centre on 28 January 2009 at 7.30pm at which they would present their reports.

Using her discretion, the Chairman allowed Royston Town Cllr Robert Smith to speak, and he reminded the Committee that he had made a detailed presentation about Flooding in Royston at the Royston and District Committee Meeting on 1 October 2008. He stated that he was deeply concerned about the current situation, and that residents of the Twigdens Estate felt sidelined and that Burns Road residents were currently "centre stage". He declared that Hertfordshire Highways should sort out the situation, as some roads on the Twigdens Estate had still not been adopted.

The Chairman assured Cllr Smith that all areas of Royston are receiving attention with regard to flooding, and that the Twigdens Estate has not been dropped as a priority.

The Committee resumed their discussion, and they agreed with the CDO that current building standards are clearly inadequate, and that the new guidelines suggested by the Environmental Agency should be accepted. It was felt that the relevant authorities should be pressed to raise standards by adapting the new guidelines and that this should be brought to the attention of the local Member of Parliament. It was stated that the flooding in different areas of Royston all had different causes.

A Member declared that it was essential to establish that drains on the Twigdens Estate were working satisfactorily, and that Herts Highways were investigating this, even though all the roads on the Estate were not as yet adopted. It was thought that adoption of the roads could be assisted by obtaining specifications and drawings from Twigdens developers. The comment was made that specifications appear to be deteriorating and preparatory work takes time. It was essential that Members

remember that Anglian Water and Herts Highways were communicating with the Royston and District Committee and were willing to help, and that matters were being progressed in Burns Road and Twigdens Estate, as well as the rest of Royston.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the Royston and District Committee was extremely disappointed by the length of time taken to receive the final reports with solutions to resolve the problem of flooding on the Twigdens Estate, and that the promised reports be brought back to the Committee Meeting on 18 March 2009 by Anglian Water, Herts Highways and North Herts District Council regarding the Royston Leisure Centre car park;
- 2) That the Committee approach the Member of Parliament and the appropriate authorities (Anglian Water and Herts Highways?) and to ask that the guidelines be implemented as standards. **Action: check appropriate authorities with SC;**
- 3) That a report be provided by all relevant authorities on flooding in Royston in general, including details of drain surveys.

86. PARKING RESTRICTIONS IN VARIOUS AREAS OF ROYSTON

The Chairman updated Members of the Royston and District Committee on the current situation regarding the parking restrictions (including Traffic Regulation Orders [TROs]) which had been requested for roads in Royston, especially in Garden Walk and Newmarket Road.

With the Chairman's permission, County Councillor Doug Drake informed the Committee that the consultation for yellow lines in York Way, has been carried out and that the yellow lines should be installed soon. It was confirmed that the notice of the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) would go into the *Royston Crow* on 30 January 2009, and work on laying down the yellow lines should begin during the week commencing 23 February 2009 if no objections arose. The advertisement process should be completed by the end of February 2009 and work would start in March 2009. He expressed disappointment at the lack of speed in installing the TRO, as there had been a fatality in the area.

The Chairman informed the Committee that the issues brought up at the previous meeting of the Royston and District Committee would be presented to the North Herts Highways Partnership Joint Member Panel on 26 January 2009, and that all the proposed yellow lines, including those requested for Melbourn Street, Princes Mews, Garden Walk and Briary Lane could be grouped under one TRO.

The Committee also reinforced the need for a report on the impact of the yellow lines recently installed in Newmarket Road, King James Way and Rock Road.

The Committee suggested other places in Royston in which they considered TROs to be essential, and these included the road outside Royston Cave where a bollard had been knocked over by lorries in the process of parking. They also wanted the relevant authorities to look at the possible options previously suggested to improve safety in Melbourn Street.

The problem of speeding traffic on Barkway Road, York Way, Burns Road (which contains two schools), the Twigdens Estate and Kneesworth Street, was also mentioned, and the Committee stated that they would require assistance from Hertfordshire Constabulary to deal with this. PCSO Tomsett, who was present at the Committee Meeting, assured the Royston and District Committee that the streets mentioned were on the Police's list for regular speed checks.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That a report on the impact of the yellow lines recently installed in Newmarket Road, King James Way and Rock Road be brought back to the next Royston and District Committee Meeting;
- 2) That the issues brought up at the previous meeting of the Royston and District Committee would be presented to the North Herts Highways Partnership Joint

Member Panel on 26 January 2009, and that all the proposed yellow lines, including those requested for Melbourn Street, Princes Mews, Garden Walk and Briary Lane could be grouped under one TRO;

- 3) That Hertfordshire Constabulary and Herts Highways investigate the problem of speeding traffic on Barkway Road, York Way, Burns Road (which contains two schools), the Twigdens Estate and Kneesworth Street.

87. CHAMPION NEWS

The Community Development Officer (CDO) took the Royston and District Committee through the activities and schemes with which he had been involved since the last meeting on 26 November 2008, and brought to their attention some important community-based activities which would take place over the next few months.

His report and updated information covered the following points:

- Young people's activities, especially the Youth Council which meets regularly. A bowling trip took place, involving six young people from Royston and three from Hitchin.
- There had been several meetings of the Town Centre Partnerships, with the help of the CDO, to discuss setting up of the financial and administrative systems to enable formation of Royston First Co. Ltd which would run the Royston Business Improvement District.
- It was proposed that Ward members from the rural areas of Royston and District and the other Area Committees give financial support to a North Herts Village of the Year category in future years of the national Campaign for the Protection of Rural England's (CPRE) Village of the Year Competition 2009. Members were asked to support the scheme for three years by contributing £200 in the first year, £50 in each of the second and third years and £50 per annum thereafter. The Baldock and District Committee agreed unanimously to offer the financial support requested.
- Under the item Other Work, the CDO updated the Committee on the progress of the Village Hall Handbook with which he is involved, and also informed them that he had assisted with the selection of Christmas trees for sites around the District as in former years. This included solving the problem of siting the Christmas tree in Baldock whilst the Town Centre Enhancement was in progress. He also stated that he had helped to resolve issues around highway and land ownership in the Lower Gower Road area.

With the Chairman's permission, Herts County Cllr D. Drake raised the subject of the NHDC's commitment to the forthcoming 2012 Olympics. He suggested that Herts County Cllr Derrick Ashley be contacted and asked how Royston could help with the District and County arrangements for this event. The CDO stated that he would be happy to speak to County Cllr Ashley, and also to the Youth Council, to see what ideas they had on this subject.

RESOLVED:

That the Royston and District Committee endorses the actions taken by the Community Development Officer to promote greater community capacity and wellbeing and thanks him for all his hard work in Royston.

REASON FOR DECISIONS:

To improve the services provided by the local organisations and groups available for the benefit of the community at large through the allocation of funds.

88. ROYSTON AND DISTRICT COMMITTEE DEVELOPMENT AND AREA VISIONING BUDGETS 2008/2009

The Community Development Officer (CDO) took the Committee through the Royston and District Budget Statement for 2008/2009, and advised the Committee of the following grant applications for determination: for financial assistance in the sum of £717.00 to Royston Town Council, towards the "What the Victorians Did for Us" exhibition at Royston Museum; to Royston Community Association for funding in the sum of £1,100 for redecoration and repairs to Royston Community Centre and Social Club, as this had not been included when the specification for the recent renovation works had been drawn up.

Cllrs P. Burt, E. Beardwell and R. Inwood all declared a personal interest in the item about Royston Museum as they are Members of Royston Town Council and the Finance Committee. During the Committee discussion, the Chairman declared that it was a worthy cause, and a credit to the Town. The grant application was then agreed.

Cllrs F. Hill and R. Inwood both declared a personal interest in the second grant application as they are North Herts District Council representatives on the Royston Community Association. During the ensuing discussion a Member raised the point of any underlying structural problems to the community centre, and asked whether these had been checked and verified as solved before the proposed redecoration was to begin. The CDO offered to organise an inspection of the structure of the Royston Social Club before redecoration proceeded. Another Member asked whether buildings insurance could cover the cost of this, although this was in doubt due to the length of time. The CDO and the Chairman agreed to liaise over this item. It was proposed that the grant application was agreed in principle, subject to confirmation by the CDO of the points raised.

A proposed contribution of £200 had already been agreed unanimously by the Royston and District Committee.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the budgetary expenditure, current balances and carry forwards from the Development Budgets 2008/09, the Small Area Grants Budget and the allocated Discretionary Budgets be noted;
- 2) That the Committee consider the grant applications from Royston Town Council and the Royston Community Association;
- 3) That the Committee considered the proposed contribution towards a future Village of the Year Competition.

REASON FOR DECISIONS:

The allocation of funds would improve the services provided by the local organisations and groups available for the benefit of the community at large.

89. GRANT APPLICATION – ROYSTON TOWN COUNCIL

RESOLVED: That the sum of £717.00 be awarded to Royston Town Council for financial assistance towards the hire, promotion and display of the “What the Victorians Did for Us” exhibition at Royston Museum.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The allocation of funds would improve the services provided by the local organisations and groups available for the benefit of the community at large.

90. GRANT APPLICATION – ROYSTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

RESOLVED: That the sum of £1,100 be awarded to the Royston Community Association in principle, subject to checks by the CDO on previous structural problems having been solved, and liaison with and confirmation by the Chairman.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS:

The allocation of funds would improve the services provided by the local organisations and groups available for the benefit of the community at large.

91. Siting of Salt Bins in and Around Royston

The question of siting of salt bins in and around Royston, for use in icy weather, was raised. It was agreed that there were a number of these at strategic points in Royston, but that the Twigdens Estate was not covered, as it had not been built when the salt bins had been installed. It was suggested that Hertfordshire Highways were asked to allocate salt bins on the Twigdens Estate.

92. General Salting of Roads and Pavements in Royston

It was agreed that the main roundabout in Royston and the access to the Royston Leisure Centre should be salted in icy weather, but also that pavements as well as highways should be covered for the safety of pedestrians. The Committee suggested that this could be done by Hertfordshire Highways, and that Fieldfare should also be covered, even though some of the surrounding roads were not as yet adopted.

It was stated that the same process must be done, as a priority, with gritting the roads, especially on the major bus routes. The Committee were then assured that this situation had already been resolved.

The meeting closed at 9.25p.m.

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Chairman